

House File 2158 - Introduced

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BY LONDON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to rescue vehicles designated as authorized
2 emergency vehicles, and making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.231, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2018,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. The driver of a fire department vehicle, police
4 vehicle, rescue vehicle, or ambulance, or a peace officer
5 riding a police bicycle in the line of duty, may do any of the
6 following:

7 a. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only
8 after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.

9 b. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver
10 does not endanger life or property.

11 4. The exemptions granted to an authorized emergency
12 vehicle under subsection 2 and ~~for~~ to a fire department
13 vehicle, police vehicle, rescue vehicle, or ambulance as
14 provided in subsection 3 shall apply only when such vehicle
15 is making use of an audible signaling device meeting the
16 requirements of section 321.433 or a visual signaling device,
17 except that use of an audible or visual signaling device shall
18 not be required when exercising the exemption granted under
19 subsection 3, paragraph "b", ~~of this section~~ when the vehicle is
20 operated by a peace officer, pursuing a suspected violator of
21 the speed restrictions imposed by or pursuant to this chapter,
22 for the purpose of determining the speed of travel of such
23 suspected violator.

24 Sec. 2. Section 321.451, subsection 2, Code 2018, is amended
25 to read as follows:

26 2. a. The application for a certificate of designation
27 must include the name of the owner of the vehicle, vehicle
28 identification information, a description of the vehicle's
29 equipment, and a description of how the vehicle will be used as
30 an authorized emergency vehicle.

31 b. If the vehicle is a rescue vehicle, the application shall
32 be accompanied by a letter of approval from the sheriff or
33 emergency management coordinator of the county of the vehicle
34 owner's residence. This paragraph shall not apply to a rescue
35 vehicle designated as an authorized emergency vehicle prior

1 to July 1, 2018, or to any other rescue vehicle owned by a
2 person who owns or has owned a rescue vehicle designated as an
3 authorized emergency vehicle prior to July 1, 2018.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 Under current law, the driver of an authorized emergency
8 vehicle may exercise certain driving privileges relating to
9 parking and directional signs when responding to an emergency
10 call. In addition, certain types of authorized emergency
11 vehicles including fire department vehicles, police vehicles,
12 and ambulances, as well as peace officers riding on police
13 bicycles, may proceed past red stop signals or stop signs
14 and exceed speed limits while exercising necessary safety
15 precautions and using an audible or visual signal. This bill
16 includes rescue vehicles in the list of authorized emergency
17 vehicles that may ignore red stop signals or stop signs and
18 exceed speed limits in emergency situations. Under Code
19 section 321.1, a "rescue vehicle" is a motor vehicle which is
20 equipped with rescue, fire, or life support equipment used to
21 assist and rescue persons in emergencies or support emergency
22 personnel in the performance of their duties. The penalty for
23 a violation of the provision remains a scheduled fine of \$100.

24 Under current law, privately owned rescue vehicles and
25 certain other privately owned vehicles may be designated by
26 the department of transportation as authorized emergency
27 vehicles. The bill requires an application for a certificate
28 of designation for a rescue vehicle to be accompanied by a
29 letter of approval from the sheriff or emergency management
30 coordinator of the county of the vehicle owner's residence.
31 This provision of the bill does not apply to a rescue vehicle
32 designated as an authorized emergency vehicle prior to July
33 1, 2018, or to any other rescue vehicle owned by a person who
34 owns or has owned a rescue vehicle designated as an authorized
35 emergency vehicle prior to July 1, 2018.